



August 2, 2018

A Long Journey Begins on Madeira Beach

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – Members of the Madeira Beach City Commission joined volunteers from Sand to Sea and Blue Earth Research Group on Thursday morning to welcome some new visitors to our community and the world. Along with a large group of visitors they gather to watch as the volunteers performed an “excavation” at a sea turtle nest that hatched just a few days ago.

The purpose of the excavation is research. Marine biologists can approximate the size of the mother turtle, how many eggs were laid, how many were able to dig their way out of the sand, and sometimes they even discover some hatchlings still trying to reach the surface. As a crowd gathered to watch, Marine Biologist Karen Pankaew warned parents and children that it’s not unusual to find hatchlings that did not make it.



As they dug down to the 2-foot depth a big smile came across the volunteers face as she carefully pulled out a hatchling wiggling its flippers. A few minutes later, to the delight of the everyone gathered, she pulled out three more! While the vast majority of hatchlings don’t make it to adulthood, these four got a head start for their long journey.



Following the excavation Vice Mayor Deby Weinstein and City Commissioner Nancy Oakely joined City Manager Jonathan Evans to officially adopt a nearby nest which is due to hatch soon. “We are proud to collaborate with Sand to Sea and Blue Earth Research to effectively promote the need to protect sea turtles,” said City Manager’s Executive Assistant Lacy LaFave.

Sea Turtles make the journey from the Caribbean to the sands of Madeira Beach to lay anywhere from 50 to 120 eggs. As hatchlings emerge, they are easily distracted by lights that can draw them away from the gulf. For more information about how you can help protect sea turtles visit www.sandtoseainc.org.

For more information contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov.